METHOD FOR ASSIGNING A STREAMING MEDIA SESSION
TO A SERVER IN FIXED AND
MOBILE STREAMING MEDIA SYSTEMS

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for assigning servers to provide multiple description bitstreams to a mobile client (in a mobile client environment) or to a fixed

10 client (in a fixed client environment). In one embodiment, the present invention, upon receiving a request from a mobile client to have media data streamed thereto, analyzes a plurality of servers to determine a first candidate server for providing a first multiple description bitstream to the base station along a first path. The present method also determines a

15 second candidate server for providing a second multiple description bitstream to the base station along a second path. The present method then sends a request to the first candidate server to provide the first multiple description bitstream to a mobile client through a base station along the first path, and also sends a request to the second candidate

20 server to provide the second multiple description bitstream to the mobile client through the same base station along a second path. In another embodiment, there are two separate paths from two separate servers to two separate base stations and then from each base station there is a separate path to the mobile client. In still another embodiment, there are

25 two paths from a single server to two separate base stations and then from each base station there is a separate path to the mobile client. In one fixed client embodiment, the present invention is able to assign a plurality of servers to provide a plurality of MD bitstreams to the fixed client.